



• INFO memo - June 20, 2003

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City Prepares for 2003 Mosquito Wars

Up until last summer, mosquitoes were generally considered pests. After cases of the West Nile Virus were reported throughout America, however, the insects were cast in a much different light.

This summer the City of Broken Arrow is taking a pro-active approach to the problem. Spraying for mosquitoes has already begun in problem areas. City workers who are "out in the field" on their jobs are being informed of what to look for and how to help citizens. Information on mosquito control and the West Nile Virus is also available on the City's web site (www.brokenarrowok.gov).

Public Works Director Dave Wooden reported that on the first two days of this past week his crews sprayed 70 locations. "We've been spraying all spring in areas where the larvae might be growing," he added.

An adult female mosquito will lay her eggs on the surface or at the edge of standing water. The eggs hatch in 24 to 48 hours and the larvae develop in the water for another 7 to 10 days before a short pupal stage. Only the females bite because they need a blood meal before every egg-laying episode.

The West Nile Virus is spread from infected birds to mosquitoes which bite them, and visa versa. The mosquitoes carrying the virus can then pass it on to humans and to horses. While the infection causes severe problems in only a small percentage of humans, the mortality rate in horses is 40 to 50 percent.

Horse owners in the area should contact their local veterinarians about a vaccine which has been developed for the animals.

The Tulsa City-County Health Department is working again with the Oklahoma State Department of Health in testing birds and mosquitoes in the area for the virus. Only crows, blue jays, cardinals, hawks, owls and eagles will be randomly tested.

If you find one of these larger birds dead in your neighborhood, report it to the Tulsa Health Department at 595-4344. If you have a complaint about mosquitoes in Broken Arrow, call our Action Center at 258-3587.

Links to the Health Department and several other web sites with West Nile and mosquito information are found on the City's web site.

Wooden reminds residents to do their part in fighting the mosquito population by draining water from old tires, flower pots, cans and bottles in your yard, gutters on homes and garages, etc. You should also keep grass and weeds cut short, change water in bird baths regularly and watch for potential problem spots in your neighborhood.

"The West Nile Virus isn't going to go away," said Wooden. "But we can make Broken Arrow a little bit safer by all doing our part."

Hydrant Testing Could Produce Cloudy Water

Broken Arrow's Fire Department has begun its program of testing for the city's fire hydrants, and the sudden release of water from those lines can sometimes produce a brief onset of cloudy looking or muddy water in area homes.

Fire Chief Ron Osborn points out that the water sits in the lines near most hydrants without being used for some time, then is stirred up during testing. There is no danger in using the water.

Proper pressure in the hydrants must be maintained so that it's there when and if needed.

Police, Fire Additions Scheduled

Broken Arrow's Fire Department will add one new employee on June 30 and Fire Chief Ron Osborn expects to have three more on board by Aug. 1.

The Police Department has started interviews of its own to fill three positions made possible through a COPS federal grant.

'Concerts in the Park' Series Wraps Up

After another big turnout for world-famous fiddler Byron Berline this past week, Broken Arrow's Tuesday Concerts in the Park series for 2003 concludes next week (June 24) with a night of "big band" sounds.

Bella Vista, an 18-piece band from Arkansas, will be the featured performer. The concerts run from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Performers use the City's Showmobile, a mobile stage with its own sound system. The audience can simply spread out around the stage and enjoy the music.

Food and soft drinks are available in the park, although those attending may bring their own. No alcoholic beverages are permitted. Lawn chairs and blankets can be brought in by those attending. The concerts are sponsored by the Broken Arrow Parks & Recreation Department, the BA Arts & Humanities Council and the Broken Arrow Visitors and Special Events Board.

Also proving popular this summer have been the Thursday night informal concerts at Centennial Park, Main and College.

Learn to Swim Sessions Continue

The City's first Learn to Swim session of the 2003 summer ended this past week, with 214 participants. Almost all of the first three classes was full.

Two-week sessions (Monday through Thursday each week) continued this week and will be held starting June 30 and July 7. Classes are \$40 and signups may be made at the Community Center (application forms and information are available on the City's web site, www.brokenarrowok.gov).

Summer USTA tennis lessons began at Central Park on June 10. David King is instructor for the program.

There are 25 teams in the adult summer volleyball leagues, which are playing at the Community Center on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

Senior Center Reopening Set

Broken Arrow's Senior Center at The Main Place will reopen next week after being closed down for painting and the installation of a new electrical system.

Scott Esmond, Director of Parks & Recreation, points out that the new Grand Hall at the Center is nearing completion. It's part of the 2000 bond issue package.

Esmond also says that work is progressing slower than expected on the new Country Aire pool, and that the Rockwood Spray Pool is waiting on an electrical meter from AEP-PSO.

Glory Daze Plans Being Finalized

With July 4th on a Friday this year, and several other Independence Day fireworks shows scheduled that same day, organizers of Broken Arrow's Glory Daze aren't sure what kind of a crowd to plan for at this year's Indian Springs Sports Complex event.

But John Ayers, chairman of the City's Centennial Committee and one of the main planners for the first two Glory Daze programs, is promising a spectacular day and night of fun, entertainment, fireworks and even a laser light show.

There will be some on-site parking available on the west side of the ISSC this year, but it will be limited and there will be a fee charged. Ayers urges most attending to take advantage of an expanded shuttle service.

Beginning at 3:30 p.m. and ending at 8:30 p.m., shuttle buses will run non-stop from Tulsa Technology Center (SE Campus) - 4600 South Olive; Oliver Middle School - 3100 West New Orleans; Wolf Creek Elementary - 3000 West New Orleans; Childers Middle School - 301 East Tucson; Spring Creek Elementary - 6801 South 3rd Street; and Northeastern State University - 3100 East New Orleans Street.

"The cost for the shuttle is one dollar for adults and kids, 12 and under, are free," said Ayers. "No coolers, alcoholic beverages or pets will be allowed on the

shuttle or inside the park. But people are, however, encouraged to bring blankets or lawn chairs.”

City police and fire departments will staff the event. Traffic and parking control has been one of the major problems in the past. Parks & Recreation employees have been heavily involved in planning for Glory Daze, and will be making preparations for the site.

Engineering Employee Headed for Nicaragua

Greg Kirby, a veteran City employee with the Engineering Department, will be heading for Nicaragua July 18 along with team members from Hope House to build a home for a family of nine.

The family has been living in a 6-foot by 9-foot hut. Much of that area was devastated by Hurricane Mitch.

Kirby and his team will build a 12-foot by 18-foot structure for the family. There is no electricity, and the area builders will have to bring their own tools. Family members will be helping by mixing concrete, bringing water from a nearby well, etc.

Kirby has been receiving financial help from fellow employees. He has to pay for half of the \$1,000 expenses on the trip. The group also will spend about \$1,200 on tools and plans to take soccer balls, school supplies, etc., to children in the area.